THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is an average precipitation, including snowfall of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. Out of this, the annual average flow in the river systems of the country is 1869 BCM which is 46.73% of rain and snowfall. Owing to the topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable surface water resource is assessed as 690 BCM and the annual replenishable ground water resource is about 432 BCM totaling to 1122 BCM which is 28.05% of rain and snowfall.

(c) To increase the utilisation, Government of India is promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water' on pilot basis.

As a long term measure, National Water Development Agenc;y have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will further increase utilizable water resources.

Regulation of withdrawal of groundwater

1500. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a news-item appearing in Indian Express dated 26th September, 2002, the situation of ground water level is not very encouraging this year;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are thinking of bringing in a regualtion on the amount of water to be withdrawn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the efforts taken to use rainwater since January, 2001 in different parts of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item express concern over fall in ground water level and resultant fall in quality of water in some parts of Delhi. As per information made available by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), water level showed decline between 0.1m–4.5m in some parts of Delhi during 2001-2002. During May—August, 2002, ground water level has further declined by 0.1m–3m in parts of Delhi. During this period, water level would, otherwise, have shown rise due to rainfall recharge, in case of normal monsoon. The quality of ground water in NCT of Delhi is generally suitable for drinking except at few places where the water is either saline or has excess fluoride, nitrate or heavy metal.

(c) to (e) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development has to be enacted by the States/Union Territories. However, the Union Government has circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water in 1970 and re-circulated it in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories, including NCT of Delhi. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under the environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has also notified South and South-West districts of NCT of Delhi prohibiting further digging of tubewells without prior approval of the Authority.

(f) The CGWB has taken the following steps to popularise rain water harvesting in the country since January, 2001:–

(i) Conducted 43 mass awareness programmes and 33 training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(ii) Implementing 89 projects on rain water harvesting under Central Sector Scheme for 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'.

(iii) Provided technical guidance to individuals/organisation/industries to adopt efficient recharge system throughout the country.

Private entrepreneurs to complete unfinished irrigation projects

1501. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have sought private help for unfinished irrigation projects;